

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a
July 7, 2011

Meeting
Archie Cole Middle School
100 Cedar Avenue, East Greenwich

Thursday, June 2, 2011 - 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: G. Caruolo (chairman), C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes,
P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

Absent: L. Adrain

The meeting convened at 4:08 p.m.

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the hosts from the East Greenwich School Department for hosting the Board in their beautiful new building. He also noted that the meeting was being digitally recorded and that all meetings will be recorded and posted on the RIDE Website to make Regents' proceedings open and available to all.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Chairman Caruolo and seconded by Vice-Chairman Guida, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the

May 5, 2011 – Board of Regents Meeting
May 19, 2011 – Board of Regents Work Session.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,
K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Commissioner's Report

Before starting with her updates, Commissioner Gist thanked the members of the Board who came to support her at her state of education address to the General Assembly.

Next, Commissioner Gist gave an update on:

Race to the Top (RTTT)

- RIDE has been sharing quarterly reports to the USDOE with the Regents, updating them on the status of RTTT implementation in RI. Some highlights of the recent report include:
 - o RIDE has begun to implement a performance-management process, called EdStat, at the state level. For its monitoring of LEAs, RIDE has submitted a performance-monitoring plan to the USDOE, with the expectation that it will be approved soon.
 - o Part of the plan is a process called Collaborative Learning for Outcomes, which will bring groups of LEAs together to discuss implementation challenges and to share best practices.
 - o RIDE developed and disseminated 16 RFPs and is reviewing proposals now.
 - o The two primary projects being implemented in year one, Study of Standards and Educator Evaluation, continue to move forward. RIDE has trained 300 educators throughout the state.

Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools (PLAs)

- Providence PLAs were initially approved to operate under the "Restart" model from the Protocol for Interventions.
- Following months of discussions attempting to balance the work and authority of the anticipated labor-management EMO, the superintendent requested a shift to the "Transformation" model. As a result of this change and the timing surrounding it, the Office of Transformation worked closely with Providence to determine how best to maximize the impact of a federal grant award late in the school year.
- These schools are eligible for school improvement grant (SIG) funds. The SIG funds that were recently awarded will go toward summer work in these schools and continued planning for turning the schools around. There is now, however, the potential for the schools to be given additional time to implement the expected components of school transformation.

- RIDE has been working closely with the US Department of Education to ensure a smooth transition into the next phase of work with the schools and simultaneous compliance with federal guidance under the grant program.

Dissertation

Commissioner Gist gave an update on her dissertation, titled *An Ocean State Voyage: A leadership case study of creating an evaluation system with, and for, teachers*. It is a case study of RIDE's work leading the development of the educator-evaluation system being developed with a focus on the leadership team at RIDE.

Public Remarks

The first public remarks came from Donna Policastro, Executive Director of the RI State Nurses Association. She spoke on behalf of the proposed RI Nurses Institute Middle College Charter High School that is scheduled to open in September 2011. This is a partnership between the nursing profession and industry in the state. This will be the first charter of its type in the country and is a partnership between LifeSpan, state colleges and universities, Salve Regina University, and St. Joseph's Hospital. This is a much-needed program that will help address the shortage of nurses that RI will face (6,000 by 2018). The school has received more than 104 applications from students throughout Rhode Island (Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, Woonsocket, Warwick, West Warwick, Cranston, and Bristol Warren).

The next public comments came from Cranston School Department officials and Cranston parents and taxpayers. They voiced their concerns over the proposed Achievement First Mayoral Academy charter-school application.

Some of the concerns were:

- To begin such a costly undertaking as a Mayoral Academy is downright irresponsible and foolhardy at a time when both the city and the state are recovering from a recession.
- While Cranston schools are being asked to cut more, Mayor Fung is proposing a new education model with a total of five new charter schools with 1,800 students.
- Currently, Cranston's school budget is \$3.9 million below the cost to provide RIDE's Basic Education Program.
- While Mayor Fung is promoting charter schools, Cranston schools are being asked to cut and dismantle enrichment programs that are very much touted as a reason for needing charter schools.
- Charter schools are taxation without representation from the public.
- Mayor Fung, acting as both executive of the City of Cranston while sitting as a Chairman of the Board of an outside vendor that the city is contracting with, is in a gross conflict of interest.
- Why not delay the decision until it is further studied? Parents and taxpayers need more time to have their questions answered in order to fairly participate in the discussion and be more fully informed about what is truly best for all of RI's students.

Mayor McKee and representatives from RI-CAN, Democrats for Education, Lincoln Town Administrator, and parents of current public-charter-school students spoke in support of the Mayoral Academies:

- Special-needs child who was not performing well in the traditional-public-school system is flourishing in a charter school.
- Students need opportunities, and parents should have choices.
- Totally impressed with the successes of Blackstone Valley Prep, in Cumberland, and the amazing teaching and learning environment the school provides.
- Cannot see why successes cannot be replicated for the students of Providence and Cranston, especially when working with a charter management organization as experienced and widely respected as Achievement First.
- All students deserve an opportunity to thrive in a public-school setting that meets their needs, and the RI Mayoral Academy will be a valuable addition to the Providence and Cranston school systems.

Next on the agenda was the presentation of certificates to Reading Recovery teachers who completed a week-long training in August before school started, followed by 30 weeks of 3-hour classes held after school during the school year. The Reading Recovery Program is a preventive, short-term intervention for 1st-graders who are having the most difficulty learning to read and write. Chairman Caruolo also recognized the Warwick School Department for its extraordinary support of the Reading Recovery Program in RI.

APPROVAL ITEMS:

Adoption of the Teacher English Competency Cut-Scores

Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to vote to have the Teacher English Competency Cut-Scores go out for public hearing. After the agenda was posted, RIDE received a request from an organization of more than 25 individuals requesting a public hearing. Therefore, RIDE asked the BOR to approve the scheduling of a public hearing to hear testimony on the cut-scores.

On a motion duly made by Carolina Bernal and seconded by Vice-Chairman Guida it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary
 approve RIDE's request to have the Teacher English
 Competency Cut-Scores be scheduled for public hearing.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member
 abstained, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,
 K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINING: B. Shimberg

Approval of North Kingstown School Department's Variance Request

On a motion duly made by Regent Santos and seconded by Vice-Chairman Guida it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary
approve the North Kingstown Variance Request

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,
K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: 0

Since public comment lasted longer than anticipated, Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting on time and table the remaining discussion items until the June 16th BOR meeting. Commissioner Gist respectfully asked that the meeting be prolonged since Mayors and representatives from the Blackstone Academy Charter School should be granted an opportunity to address the BOR after waiting for two hours. Chairman Caruolo respectfully declined her request and instead asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Vice-Chairman Guida it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary
Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member voted
in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,
K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: B. Shimberg

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.